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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

SUBJECT Bao Dai and Ho Chi Minh Negotiations

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1. Bao Dai and Ho Chi Minh are in mutual messenger communication for the purpose of exploring the possibilities of an immediate understanding. The aim of both sides is elimination of French and Chinese participation at the decisive moment. Bao Dai made an agreement with Ho Chi Minh in 1945 whereby both swore an oath of loyalty. Ho Chi Minh has now declared that Bao Dai never to his knowledge broke this oath.
2. The blowing up of a Red Chinese espionage ring is connected with the elimination of Chinese influence through Ho Chi Minh. The French intelligence service broke up a spy ring in Hanoi which was in direct communication with Peiping by way of Hong Kong. More than 70 persons were arrested in Vietnam. The cleaning out of the ring was made possible by information that came from Ho Chi Minh's headquarters to the French intelligence service. (Only Chinese were arrested.) The reason for this procedure of Ho Chi Minh was that the ring, which formerly had procured material for Ho Chi Minh, was now restricted by special instructions from Peiping to working only for Red China. This Red Chinese maneuver probably is connected with the efforts in Peiping and Paris to bring about an armistice in Indochina by an agreement on a so-called "higher level." These plans, as far as they emanated from Peiping, are regarded by Ho Chi Minh as a betrayal of him and a dagger blow against the Indochinese nationalist cause which, as everyone knows, is his first consideration.
3. The suspicion of a double play is strengthened by the personal dealings of Bao Dai. Tran Tong Kim\* was appointed president of the Vietnam congress. He was formerly a secret agent for the Japanese and is regarded as an important behind-the-curtain tool of Bao Dai to steer the congress on the desired course. Monsignor Lu-hu-tu\*\* bishop of Phat Diem and leader of the Catholic nationalists in Indochina, was an advisor of Ho Chi Minh for many years and only went over to Bao Dai's side in 1948, without the reasons for his change of sides ever being wholly perceived.

\*/Tran Trong Kim  
\*\*/Le Huu Tu122.51 52L/C(ZL)  
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